

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some of the Programme Executives/Producers have retired voluntarily citing domestic ground and hence no such information regarding number of officers who have strayed to private sector is available with the Government.

DD'S Laxity and Callousness in Reporting Earthquake Tragedy

2443. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that through the devastating earthquake in Gujarat took place before 9 A.M. on the Republic Day, Doordarshan news pursuing their normal schedule reported the incident at noon while the other private channels took lead in reporting the tragedy;

(b) if so, whether Government have any inquiry into DD's laxity and callousness in reporting the worst human tragedy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir. Doordarshan News Channel and National Channel carried the item in its 0900 HRS bulletin.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Report of Study Group on Corporate Excellence

2444. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group on Corporate Excellence set up under the Chairmanship of Shri P.L. Sangeev Reddy has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said Group;

(c) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the said Group;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have decided to set up an independent autonomous centre for corporate governance to accord accreditation and promote policy research and studies, training and education in corporate excellence; and

(f) if so, by when this institute of excellence in corporate governance is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report of the Study Group on Corporate Excellence contains several far reaching recommendations. Some of the key recommendations are as under:

- Setting up of an Independent, Autonomous Centre for Corporate Excellence: to mainly accord accreditation and promote policy research and studies, training and education and awards etc. in the field of corporate excellence through improved corporate governance.
- Introducing formal recognition of Corporate Social Responsibility with the first steps towards Triple-Bottomline Accounting and Reporting.
- Introducing measures for greater shareholders participation through multiple-location meetings, electronic-media-assisted display of corporate information and views on proposed resolutions etc.
- Clearer distinction between direction and management that would ensure that the executive directors are held responsible for legal and other compliance while the non-executive directors are charged with strategic and oversight responsibilities for the company's business and for ensuring the appropriate processes and systems are in place for necessary compliance. Suggestions

for legislative recognition of direction and management as distinct though complementary functions of the board and the executive respectively, through appropriate grouping of provisions.

- Highlighting directorial commitment and accountability through fewer and more focused board and committee memberships, tighter delineation of independence criteria and minimization of interest-conflict potential.
- Suggesting application of corporate governance principles to Public Sector Undertakings, certainly in case of Listed Companies, and preferably even in case of Unlisted Companies, in terms of freeing them from multiple surveillance agencies and upgrading their boards with independent directors.

(c) and (d) The Report of the Study Group has been examined by the Government and matter relating to implementing important recommendations of the Group is under active consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) One of the important recommendations made by the Study Group is to set up, under the aegis of Department of Company Affairs, an Independent, Autonomous Centre for Corporate Excellence to mainly accord accreditation and promote policy research and studies, training & education and awards etc. in the field of corporate excellence through improved corporate governance. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Backlog in Courts

2445. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item, "Courts have backlog of 2.4 crore cases" published in the Hindustan Times, dated 11th December, 2000;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto;